

the NC National Guard in the American Revolution



Introduction

Who am I?

Why am I here?



North Carolina National Guard

- Descendants of the Militia
- Training
- Equipment
- Resupply



The Battles of King's Mountain and Cowpens

**Irregular Warfare against
superior strength and
numbers**

BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN

- **THE FIRST MAJOR BATTLE
FOLLOWING CORNWALLIS'S
INVASION
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**Blacksburg, South Carolina
(at the time, King's Mountain
was
thought to be in South Carolina)**

Battle of King's Mountain

7 October 1780

THE SITUATION:

- **Having recently suffered devastating defeats at Savannah, Charleston, Camden, Fishing Creek, and Waxhaw, the Patriots' prospects are grim.**
- **Having re-imposed British rule on SC, Cornwallis now aims to repatriate NC and VA.**

THE SITUATION.....continued:

- **British Major Patrick “Bull Dog” Ferguson, leading Cornwallis’s West Wing comprised largely of Loyalists, tries to subdue western NC, SC, and VA by threat and force.**
- **Various Patriot forces, mostly Militia, gather to try to stop Ferguson and his men.**

Battle of King's Mountain

	PATRIOTS (WHIGS)	LOYALISTS (TORIES)
Commanders	None: no “unity of command”	Maj. Patrick Ferguson
Military Force	900 strong	1,016 strong but 200 are absent on patrol
Strategy	surround and shoot from cover: every	occupy the highest ground and ward off the

Maj. Patrick Ferguson Commander of Cornwallis's West Wing



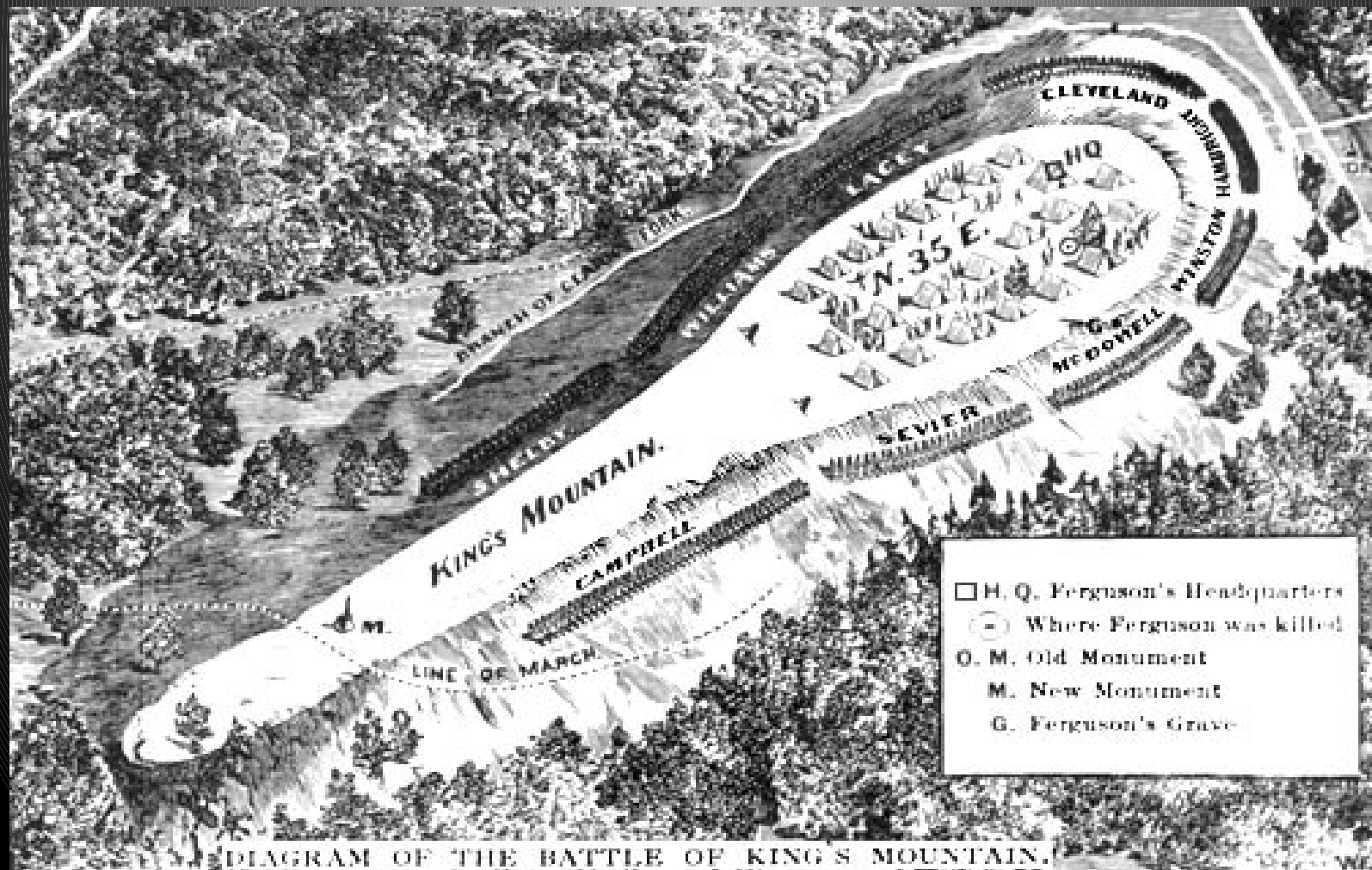
Patriot Forces

Battle of King's Mountain

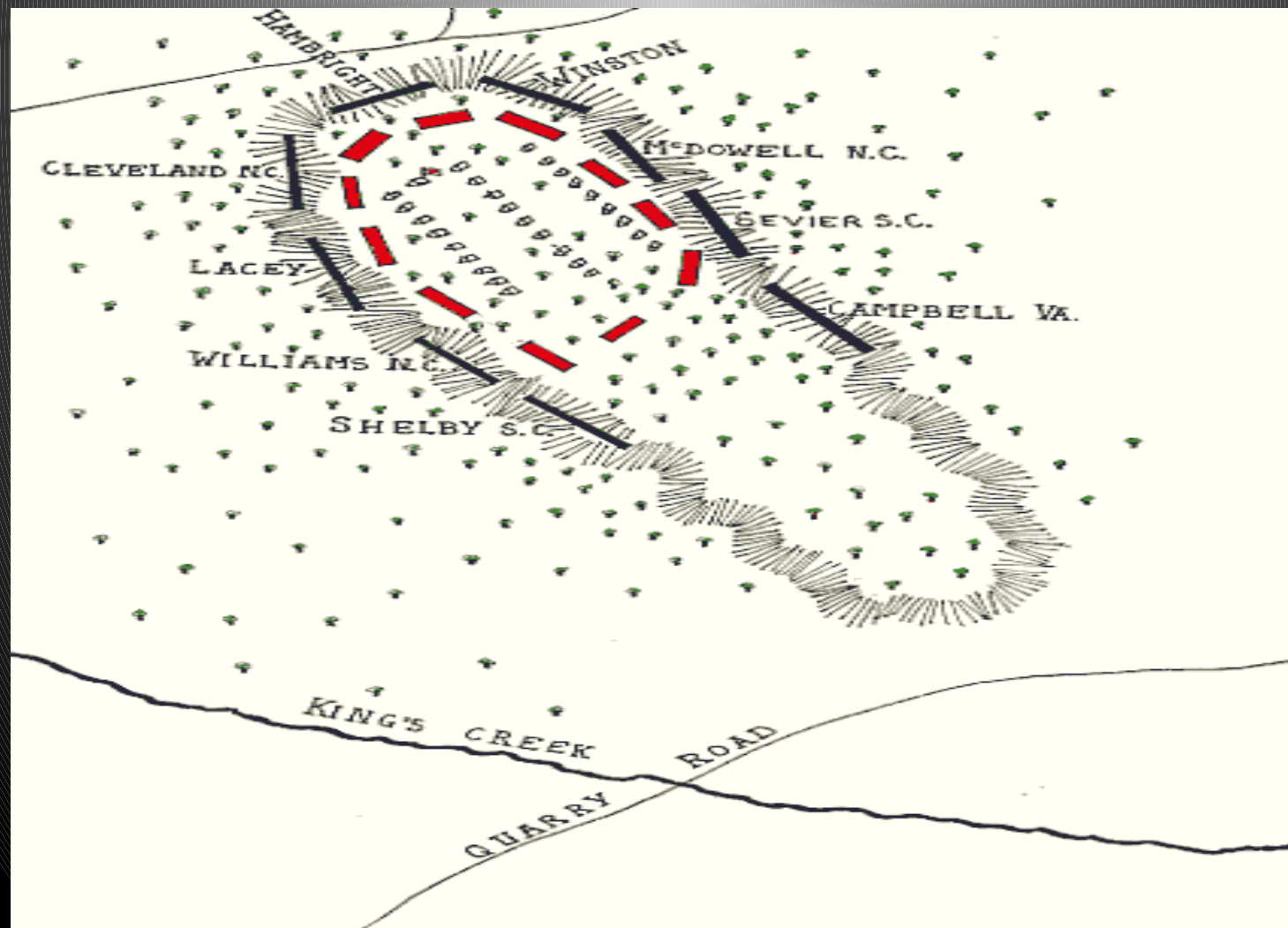
- **Col. Benjamin Cleveland, 980 men (NC)**
- **Col. William Campbell, 430 men (VA, SC, and GA)**
- **Total: 1,410**

- **NOTE 1: Only 900 of this total actually fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain.**
- **NOTE 2: In the maneuverings that took place for days before the battle, Colonel Campbell was given overall command but actually commanded only his own column at Kings Mountain**

Diagram of Battle of Kings Mountain



Map of Battle of Kings Mountain



Combat Action at King's Mountain

- Nominally, Major Campbell commands the Patriot corps on the south side of the Mountain during the battle and Major Cleveland, the corps on the north side.
- Most Patriots use Deckard rifles that are more accurate and have a greater range than the Loyalists' muskets.
- Ferguson's troops are silhouettes on the horizon and easy targets for the Patriot riflemen.



Combat Action..... continued

- **Operating individually, the Patriots keep up a steady, withering fire.**
- **The attacking Patriots shield themselves behind trees from Loyalists' musket volleys.**
- **The Patriots form a complete cordon around the summit, and the coil is drawn closer and closer to the center. Finally, Ferguson is completely enveloped.**

Combat Action...cont'd

- **Colonel Sevier's North Carolinians are the first to storm the summit and hold their position.**
- **Ferguson is shot multiple times, falls from his white charger, and dies.**
- **The afternoon battle ends in about 50 minutes with Ferguson's death. Captain Abraham DePeyster, second in command, surrenders himself and the other survivors.**

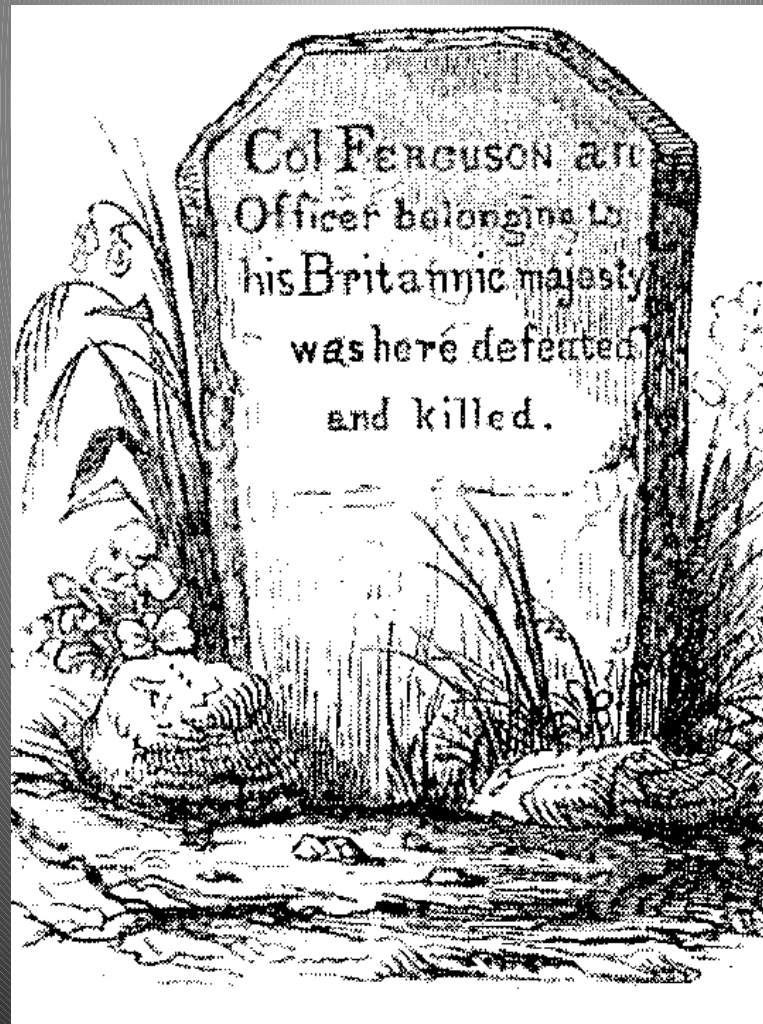
Militia Riflemen in the Forest at Battle of Kings Mountain



Patriots Gain Their Position on the Summit of Kings Mountain



Major Patrick Ferguson's Monument



King's Mountain Casualties

	Killed	Wounded	Captured
PATRIOTS (WHIGS)	28	64	0
LOYALISTS (TORIES)	157 including Ferguson	163	698

Results of the Battle of King's Mountain

- **Cornwallis's west wing is destroyed.**
- **Cornwallis retreats from NC to SC.**
- **Greene rebuilds his army in NC while launching harassment maneuvers against Cornwallis in SC.**
- **Sagging Patriot spirits are revived.**
- **The British will not win another battle in the South.**

What was signed more than a year later in Philadelphia?

The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence

Charlotte, North Carolina
May 20th 1775

Resolved — That whosoever directly or indirectly abets or in any way form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights, as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America, and the rights of man.

Resolved — That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg county do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us with the mother country, and absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British crown, abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

Resolved — That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people, that we are and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the general Congress, to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

Resolved — That we do hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct, all and each of our former laws, and the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst us.

Resolved — That all officers, both civil and military in this county, be entitled to exercise the same powers and authorities as heretofore; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer, and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the county and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country until a more general and better organized system of government be established.

Resolved — That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

Abraham Alexander	Chairman.
John McWall Alexander	Secretary.
Ephtaim Howard	Adam Alexander
Sejourn J. Hale	Charles Alexander
John Phifer	Nathaniel Wilson
James Harris	Waightstill Avery
William Kenner	Benjamin Wallen
John Ford	Matthew W. Stone
Richard Berry	Neil Morrison
Henry Downs	Robert Dent
Efra Alexander	John Flannagan
William Graham	David Hesse
John Hargett	John Davidson
Sejourn Alexander	Richard Harris
Thomas Potts	

Hornet's Nest- 60th Troop Command



BATTLE OF COWPENS

Waxhaws, South Carolina



Battle of Cowpens

17 January 1781

THE SITUATION:

- **Greene divides his army and sends General Daniel Morgan to SC to harass Cornwallis.**
- **British Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton finds Morgan and attacks him at Cowpens in the Waxhaws.**

Battle of Cowpens

	PATRIOTS (WHIGS)	LOYALISTS (TORIES)
Commanders	Gen. Daniel Morgan	Lt. Col. Banastre "Bloody Ban" Tarleton
Military Force	1,005 strong Continental and Militia	1,000 strong
Strategy	deception, double envelope	frontal attack

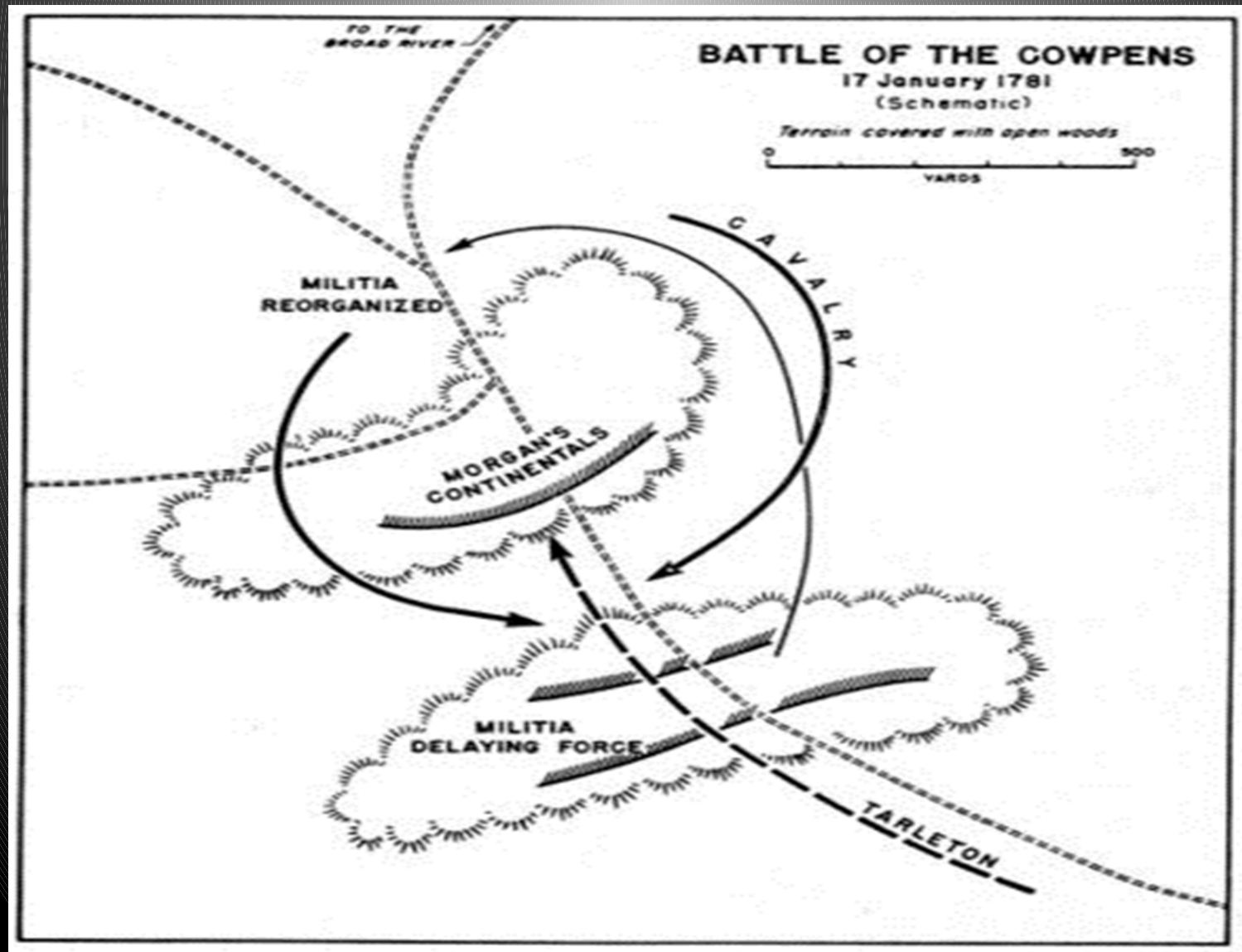
General Daniel Morgan



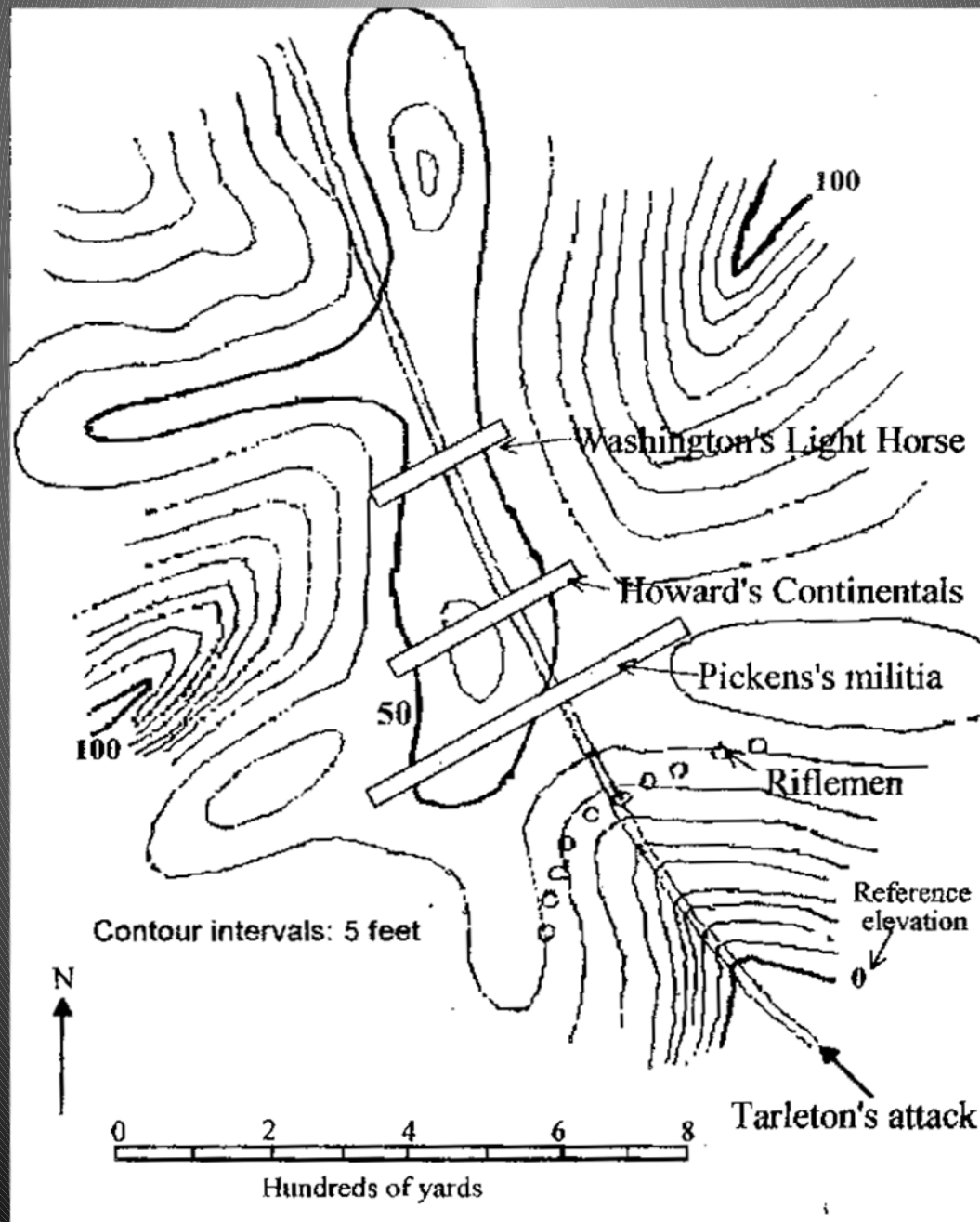
Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton



The Battlefield



The Attack



Cowpens Battle Action

- Tarleton's dragoons make a morning frontal assault.
- Sharpshooters on front line fire two rounds and then open their line, leading Tarleton to believe he has routed Morgan's forces.
- Tarleton recklessly proceeds and faces two withering rounds from Pickens' 490 Militiamen while the sharpshooters fire into his flanks.

Cowpens Battle Action..... continued

- **Then he charges into Howard's Continental line and is attacked on his right flank by Colonel William Washington and on his left flank by the re-ordered militia.**
- **Ending the battle after almost two hours, Tarleton himself barely escapes with his life.**

Colonel William Washington



Booty Collected by Morgan

- **800 muskets**
- **35 baggage wagons**
- **100 dragoon horses**
- **a traveling forge**
- **Tarleton's colors**
- **Tarleton's "music"**

Casualties

	PATRIOTS (WHIGS)	BRITISH (TORIES)
Dead	11	150
Wounded	61	200
Captured	0	500, mainly Infantrymen

Captured British

- **Marched to Virginia where they are used in exchange for Americans wasting away in British prison ships.**



Results of the Battle of Cowpens

- **Cornwallis's east wing is virtually annihilated: Only 250 of Tarleton's 1,000-strong battalion survived.**
- **Infuriated, Cornwallis decides to pursue Greene's army and destroy it, so he returns to NC in mad pursuit of Greene.**
- **General Daniel Morgan reunites his army with Greene's in NC but has to retire because of chronic rheumatism.**

Questions?

